

REPORT

of the

Association

of

Descendants of Ralph Smith

of

HINGHAM AND EASTHAM, MASS.

1938

**TO THE
ASSOCIATION
of
DESCENDANTS OF RALPH SMITH**

GREETINGS

Smith, Schmidt, Smythe—
Over all the earth they run—
The land that does not own a Smith,
Has yet to meet the Sun.

We, on the Pacific Coast—
Do smile and grin and laugh,
For the Smiths we meet on every hand
Are not the descendants of Ralph.

The man who crossed an ocean
To a continent strange and new,
Is honored by his descendants
In numbers, not a few.

Then Greetings to the Cousins!—
Let all arise and sing,
For Ralph Smith who crossed the ocean
Did a great and wondrous thing.

Isabel S. Dickson
Jessie I. Hoult

New Westminster, B. C.
June 7th, 1938.

Message From Our President

Capt. Arthur N. McGray

Fellow-Members and Friends of Our Association:—

Shortly after adjournment of our recent Annual Meeting it was suggested that your President should address a more formal message to the Membership, for incorporation into the printed Proceedings, than he was able to do in the course of conducting the business for which we assembled. I gladly respond to that suggestion. Available space, however, will not admit of lengthy remarks or detailed comment.

As most of you are aware, we are now a full-fledged, legally incorporated and registered Association. Our objects are defined and the course of their fulfillment definitely established. This is a long and important stride forward. We can now legally acquire title to property, accept trusts and maintain standing as administrators thereof; powers and functions denied to informally Organized Societies or Associations. It clears the way to our desire to acquire the site of the "Old Graves," at Chatham Port, of Deacon Stephen Smith and his wife, Bathsheba (Brown) Smith, and several members of their immediate families, and to suitably enclose the small area and dedicate it as a Family Shrine. Deacon Stephen Smith, the great grandson of Ralph Smith, was the father of "Squire" Archelaus Smith, one of the first white settlers of Barrington, Nova Scotia.

When the Founders of your Association took preliminary steps for organizing, at Centerville, Cape Cod, on Thanksgiving Day, 1936, they fully appreciated they were embarking upon a project which could only succeed by enlisting the enthusiastic support—the intense active interest—in ever increasing numbers, of the Descendants of Ralph Smith. Pains-taking efforts were unsparingly pursued to this end. The response was immediate and generous. This cooperation we all appreciated deeply and make acknowledgement to all with sincere gratitude.

The sea of happy faces, at the Hall at Arlington last Sunday, told more eloquently than any words of mine how splendid a measure of success had been achieved. Such an outpouring of affectionate greetings as was witnessed during the visiting hour was delightful evidence of family unity and an inspiration to all, I am sure, to push forward the spread of the Association during the coming year with redoubled energy. Let every individual member pledge to himself a determination to "get a New Member" before the close of 1938. It is hardly necessary to remind you that our revenue is in direct proportion to our total membership and that every inch of progress toward our ultimate objects is dependent upon our annual income. Make your slogan:—"Let's get a-going" and you

will have a bigger party and a better time, if such is possible, at our next Annual Meeting. We missed the presence of many members who were unable to attend. May they have better luck and bring a personal message to us all in 1939.

I give you this thought:—There are hundreds of business, political, fraternal and other associations in our Country that hold Annual Meetings or Conventions. Chambers of Commerce, Convention "getters" and other groups interested in boosting their respective cities and towns, make generous bids or substantial economic offerings to organizations of importance as an inducement to convene within their gates. Work hard, fellow-members, that your numbers be increased to envious proportions, so that every worthwhile city in Massachusetts will recognize your importance.

Report of the Secretary

American Legion Hall,
Arlington, Mass.
June 26, 1938

Despite the steady downpour of rain the entire day of Sunday, June 26th, the Second Annual Meeting of the Association of Descendants of Ralph Smith, of Hingham and Eastham, Mass., Inc., was well attended, there being over 130 members and friends gathered together at that time.

The time allotted to the gathering was from 12 noon until 6:00 P.M. From noon until 1 o'clock members were registering and renewing old friendships, meeting and making new friends. Some met those whom they had not seen for fifty years or so. Others we met for the first time.

Luncheon was served at 1 P.M. under the efficient and happy direction of Joseph A. Smith, assisted by his wife, Phoebe, and a well chosen and able committee. It would take up too much time and space to describe the various appetizing dishes served, but the whole was most delicious and enjoyed by all.

The business meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. by our President, Capt. Arthur N. McGray. Prayer was offered by the Chaplain followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the singing of one verse of "Faith of Our Fathers." Report of the First Annual Meeting was given by the Secretary, followed by the report of the Treasurer, both of which were accepted. Copies of same will be found in this booklet. A few moments were given to silent prayer in memory of two members who have answered the Roll Call of the Heavenly Family since our last meeting, namely Austin H. Smith and Delwin Gordon Brown.

A most interesting paper was read by the Historian, Thomas Edison Smith, which is given in full following. Also a paper read by our second Vice-President, Joseph A. Smith.

Benjamin Hervey Doane, LL.B., Appellate Division Supreme Court of New York City, gave the outstanding address, in which he gave us much to think about. He related several amusing stories illustrating the various principles and virtues necessary for us to have in order to honor those who have gone before us, whose blood we share, if we are to be loyal descendants as well as good citizens. I quote one phrase:—"Black a man's shoes and he will keep out of the mud; so a Family Organization such as this makes a man like the things he gets through honorable ancestors and he wants to be worthy of his sires. We have sires to be proud of and let us remember that we need to have family pride enough to make our ancestors not ashamed that they were ancestors to such as we."

An interesting account of the Ancestry of William Smith of Stoughton, Mass., was given by Mr. Tenney Smith of Brooklyn, N. Y.

At intervals during the meeting a very interesting musical program was given under the direction of Mr. Arthur Gilchrist. There was a small orchestra and Miss Ruth Rogers, of Gilman, Vt., presided at the piano. The composition, "Anchors Aweigh" was dedicated to our President, Capt. Arthur N. McGray, in memory of the many years he followed the sea, having had a brilliant career thereon. Instrumental selections, songs and recitations were given by Jean Rogers, Robert Nickerson, Vincent Julian and others who are Junior members of the Association. A duet was pleasingly rendered by Mrs. Henry B. MacCoy and Mr. Donner of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Clayton T. Smith of Saugus, Mass., presented the Association with \$64.00 to add to our treasury. This money was earned by Mrs. Smith for the Association by giving Beano parties at her home during the winter. A rising vote of thanks was given her by the Association in gratitude for her splendid work.

A rising vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Joseph A. Smith and his wife for the hard work they gave in arranging for and putting on the splendid luncheon.

Also a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. James O. MacCorison, Town Clerk of North Berwick, Maine, for the aid he gave Mr. Eugene E. Smith of that place in procuring for us our Incorporation in the State of Maine. Mr. MacCorison gladly gave of his time and services without remuneration. It was voted that a letter stating the action of the Association and expressing the thanks of the Society be sent Mr. MacCorison by the Secretary. (Which has been done).

A code of By-Laws drafted by the Executive Committee was read and adopted, article by article. It was voted that they be printed and distributed to the members.

It was also voted to print the proceedings of this meeting, also to be distributed amongst the members.

The election of officers followed, as follows, with unanimous consent:—

President: Capt. Arthur N. McGray, Agawam, Mass.

First Vice-President: Thomas Edison Smith, [REDACTED], Mass.

Second Vice-President: Joseph A. Smith, [REDACTED], Mass.

Third Vice-President: Eugene E. Smith, [REDACTED], Maine.

Fourth Vice-President: C. Austin Brannen, Washington, D. C.

Secretary-Treasurer: Georgia M. Clark, [REDACTED], Mass.

Historian: Thomas Edison Smith, [REDACTED], Mass.; Assistant
Historian: G. M. Clark.

Chaplain: Beatrice M. Hunt, [REDACTED], Mass.

President of Junior Group: Ena Smith Nickerson, [REDACTED]
Mass.

Auditing Committee: Andrew T. MacCoy, [REDACTED], Mass.;
Raymond I. Carter, Gloucester, Mass.; Louise Smith, [REDACTED],
Mass.

Board of Directors: Officers and Andrew T. MacCoy, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Mass.; Harvey N. Smith, [REDACTED], Mass.; Caroline A. Car-
ter, [REDACTED], Mass.; Mina S. Hayden, [REDACTED], Mass.; Gertrude
S. Smith, [REDACTED], Mass.

Applications blanks for membership in the Massachusetts
Society of Mayflower Descendants were distributed. All descend-
ants of Samuel Smith are eligible for membership in the Mayflower
Society, through Mary Hopkins, his wife and granddaughter of
Stephen Hopkins who came over in the "Mayflower" 1620.

There being no further business, after singing that dear and
familiar hymn, "Blest Be the Tide that Binds" the meeting was ad-
journed at 6:00 P.M.

(Signed) Georgia Mary Clark,
Secretary.

Treasurer's Report

ASSOCIATION OF DESCENDANTS OF RALPH SMITH, INC.

June 25th, 1938.

Balance on hand, Sept. 5, 1937	\$38.38
Received for dues from Sept. 5, 1937, to May 10, 1938	49.00
Total	\$87.38
Received for 1939 Dues	19.75

Making a grand total of **\$107.13**

Expenditures:		
Sept. 1937	To postage	\$ 1.27
	To cartage of chairs to and from Annual Meeting	4.00
	To professional services of Lawyer Paine in re purchasing land containing Stephen Smith's and family's graves	3.00
Nov. 1937	To F. B. & F. P. Goss for printing 200 reports, Membership cards and envelopes	40.00
May 1938	To 100 double postals for notices	2.00
	To deposit on American Legion Hall	6.00
	To G. M. Clark, borrowed by Assoc. towards printing above mentioned reports, etc., as Treasury was out of funds	5.00
June 15	To Eugene E. Smith of North Berwick, Maine, for incorporation expense in State of Maine	1.30
June 20	To G. M. Clark for stationery and secreterial materials	1.95
Total	\$64.52	
Balance on hand as of June 25th	\$42.61	

(Signed) GEORGIA MARY CLARK,
Treasurer.

Report of Auditing Committee:—

We, the undersigned, have examined the above report and have found it correct.

(Signed) LOUISE S. SMITH
RAYMOND I. CARTER
ANDREW T. MacCOY

1939 Membership Fees NOW due.

"Genealogical Trees"

by

ARTHUR GUITERMAN

Undoubtedly you'll never see
A poem like a family tree,
A tree that proves beyond demur
How eminent one's fathers were;
A tree whose branches boast the charms
Of mottoes, crests, and coats-of-arms
In Azure, Argent, Vert and Gules,
According to heraldic rules;
A tree, the intimate Who's Who
Of those whose blood is purely blue,
A lofty, nobly spreading tree
Of lineage and pedigree
May find him hanging, stark and grim,
Suspended from a lower limb.
Where who looks too closely for
A favorite progenitor

Smith

A PAPER READ BY THOMAS EDISON SMITH
(First Vice-President)

The most widespread name in the world is SMITH and some authorities tell us that the great and formidable family of Smith is lineally descended from Noah's son, Shem, thus: Shem, Schemit, Shmit, Smit, Smith.—Sounds very simple!

One of this great family founded the first English settlement in America in 1607 and he was known as "The Admiral of New England." The proudest earldom in England is that of the Smith's—everyone has heard of the Earl of Derby. There are many Coats of Arms in various branches of the family. The one reproduced

here is used by the descendants of the Norfolk, England, branch. (A water color reproduction was on exhibition at the meeting).

RALPH (1) SMITH, the ancestor in whose name this Association is founded, is said to have been born in Hingham, Norfolk County, England, in 1610. He came to America on the ship "Elizabeth Bonaventure", John Graner, Master, leaving Yarmouth, Norfolk County, England, the first week in May 1633 and arrived at Massachusetts Bay, on June 15.

His name appears on the Hingham, Mass., records in 1637, when he drew a house-lot on Bachelor Street at or near "Pear Tree Hill". The record of Ralph Smith's marriage has not been found and the name of his first wife and mother of his children is not known. The baptisms of four of his children born at Hingham, Mass., are recorded there. As late as Sept. 22, 1652, he is spoken of in the probate records of Suffolk County, Mass., as Ralph Smith of Hingham. He removed to Eastham, Mass., about 1653, was listed as a legal voter in Eastham, May 22, 1655, took the "oath of fidelity" Oct. 25, 1657, and was chosen constable of that town in 1660 and appointed to superintend the cutting up of drift whales.

In 1661, according to the Plymouth Colony records, he was fined 10s. 00d. for striking, thrusting William Walker over a boat and his son, Samuel, was fined for saying he "could find in his hart to stick a pen into William Walker."

After the death of his first wife, Ralph Smith married second, Grace Hatch, widow of Thomas Hatch. The following "Court Order" indicates that he died before its date. The Court Order reads,—"Oct. 27, 1685, administration is granted by this Court to Grace Smith, relict of Ralph Smith and Samuel Smith, son of said Ralph Smith, all of the town of Eastham, in the Colony of New Plymouth in New England, deceased, on all goods and chattels of Ralph Smith. (Plymouth Colony Records). His children were:—

1. Samuel, baptized at Hingham, Mass., July 11, 1641.
2. John, baptized at Hingham, Mass., July 23, 1644.
3. Daniel, baptized at Hingham, Mass., March 2, 1647.
4. Elizabeth, baptized at Hingham, Mass., Sept. 16, 1648.
5. Thomas not on Hingham records, b. about 1650-53.
6. Deborah, b. at Eastham, Mass., March 8, 1654.

SAMUEL (2) SMITH, from whom almost all those of Smith blood present at this meeting are descended, was the eldest son of Ralph Smith. He was baptized at Hingham, Mass., July 11, 1641, married at Eastham, Mass., Jan. 3, 1665, to Mary Hopkins, born at Yarmouth, Mass., 1640, daughter of Gyles Hopkins and wife Catherine Wheldon. Gyles Hopkins was born in England about 1610 and came to America with his father, Stephen Hopkins, on the Mayflower 1620. All descendants of Samuel Smith and Mary Hopkins have this "Hopkins Mayflower Line".

Samuel Smith early engaged in the whale and mackerel fishery and was very successful. Later he was a trader and inn keeper in

Eastham. He owned at one time more than 1000 acres of land, 400 acres being in the South side of the town of Eastham and was known for many years afterwards as the "Smith Purchase". He also bought two farms in Chatham, Mass., one at Tom's Neck, comprising a considerable part of the present village of Chatham. His estate at his death was valued at more than 1200 pounds. The inventory shows he was in possession of over 50 head of cattle, 60 sheep and a number of horses. He held various local offices in Eastham, was styled "mister" in the records and Judge Samuel Sewell mentions him in his diary. He has been described as a "Resolute and Determined man." Samuel Smith died at Eastham, Mass., March 27, 1696-97. It is said his wife died two days before her husband but in the settlement of Samuel Smith's estate, I have found in the Barnstable Probate Records that Mary Smith relict of Samuel Smith, signed papers in 1698, in the final settlement of that estate. The children of Samuel and Mary (Hopkins) Smith were:—

1. Samuel b. at Eastham, May 26, 1668; d. Sept. 22, 1692.
2. Mary b. at Eastham, Jan. 3, 1669; m. abt. 1690-3, Daniel Hamilton.
3. Joseph b. at Eastham, April 10, 1671; d. abt. 1692.
4. John b. at Eastham, May 26, 1673 (see next generation).
5. Grace b. at Eastham, Sept. 5, 1676; d. Dec. 1, 1691.
6. Rebecca b. at Eastham, Dec. 8, 1678—

Of these children only Mary and John survived their father. Mary married Daniel Hamilton. She was a great aunt of Squire Archelaus Smith of Chatham, Mass., and Barrington, Nova Scotia, and great grandmother of Patience Hamilton, who married Archelaus Smith, Jr., at Barrington, Nova Scotia, Oct. 6, 1785.

JOHN (3) SMITH, son of Samuel and Mary (Hopkins) Smith, born at Eastham, May 26, 1673, married at Eastham, May 14, 1694, Bethia Snow, born at Eastham, July 1, 1672, daughter of Stephen Snow by his wife, Susanna (Dean) widow of Joseph Rogers. Her grandmother, Coastance Hopkins, wife of Nicholas Snow, was the daughter of Stephen Hopkins of the Mayflower. John Smith removed to Chatham, Mass., about 1700, where he owned part of two farms he inherited from his father. He became a very substantial citizen. He was Selectmen one year and held many other offices in the town. His name is on the Memorial erected in Chatham to the early settlers. He died in middle life in 1717, administration on his estate being granted to his son, Samuel, Feb. 25, 1718. His widow was living in 1734 when his estate was finally settled. His children were:—

1. James, b. Feb. 13, 1695; d. May 27, 1696.
2. Samuel, b. May 25, 1696; m. Mercy Higgins, July 19, 1718.
3. Dean, b. abt. 1698; m. Esther Ryder, Oct. 13, 1720.
4. Mercy, b. abt. 1700; m. Nathan Kenney of Chatham. They were the parents of Heman Kenney and Nathan Kenney, grantees in Barrington, Nova Scotia, 1761. Many of their descendants are present with us today.

5. Mary, b. abt. 1702; m. 1732, Obadiah Chase. Their daughter, Sarah Chase, married Henry Wilson of Chatham and a grantee in Barrington, N. S., 1762. Their daughter, daughter, Sarah Wilson married James Smith, son of Archelaus, as his first wife. A number of their descendants are with us also.
6. John, b. April 7, 1703; m. (1) Sept. 27, 1727, Elizabeth Brown, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Mulford) Brown. m. (2) April 7, 1763, Lydia, widow of Ebenezer Snow.
7. Stephen (See next generation).
8. Bethia b. abt. 1708; m. Dec. 15, 1731, Elisha Young.
9. David b. abt. 1710. No further record.
10. Seth, b. abt. 1712; m. (1) May 15, 1737, Elizabeth — who died April 12, 1756; m. (2) Mary (Godfrey) Nickerson. She died April 24, 1782, aged 71 years. Seth died April 28, 1787, aged 75 years. (Hd. Stn. Record).

STEPHEN (4) SMITH, son of John and Bethiah (Snow) Smith was born in 1706. He m. (1) Hannah Collins 1725. She was b. 1710, daughter of John and Hannah (Doane) Collins. Hannah d. young leaving an only child:—

1. Stephen.

Stephen m. (2) April 9, 1729, Bathsheba Brown, daughter of George Brown and a sister of his brother, John's wife, Elizabeth, Rev. Benjamin Webb performing the marriage service.

He was a farmer and lived not far from the home of one of our Cape Cod members, Miss Cora M. Smith of Chatham Port, and near the Samuel Clifford place. He was for many years a useful and highly esteemed citizen. He was chosen Deacon of the Chatham Church September 6, 1749. He and his wife and two unmarried daughters died in the great small-pox epidemic of 1766. They lie buried under the pines just west of the Clifford place, beside the family of their neighbor, Stephen Ryder, who died of the same disease.

Many of those present with us today have visited those old graves and no doubt have noticed the neglected condition they are in. As they are on private property there is very little we can do to improve the surroundings at present. It is thought that there will be in the near future, some way arranged whereby this burial plot can be well looked after.

"One of the marks of civilization is a decent respect for the the dead and a reasonable care for their last resting place. Not only the Christian Faith of the Resurrection, but decency for the living and the common distinction between man and brute, seems to require it."

A poet has said, speaking of an old burial ground that "here the rude forefathers of the Village sleep." The children of Deacon Stephen were:

By his first wife, Hannah Collins:

1. Stephen bapt. Dec. 18, 1726, m. Mehitable Eldredge and removed to Liverpool, N. S., about 1761.

By his second wife, Bathsheba Brown:

2. James, baptized Dec. 8, 1730; probably did not marry.
3. George, baptized Dec. 16, 1731; m. Barbara Mayo, Oct. 16, 1755.
4. Archelaus bapt. Apr. 23, 1734; m. Elizabeth Nickerson, July 16, 1752, removed to Barrington, N. S., 1761.
5. Elijah, baptized Feb. 24, 1737; m. (1) Elizabeth Myrick Aug. 24, 1760; who died of small-pox Jan. 15, 1766. He m. (2) July 8, 1766, Mary (Taylor) Collins, widow of Solomon Collins.
6. Hannah, baptized Jan. 5, 1739; m. Uriah Nickerson, April 17, 1760.
7. Obadiah, baptized Jan. 14, 1741; m. Susannah Taylor, Jan. 15, 1767.
8. Bathsheba, baptized Jan. 5, 1744; d. of small-pox, Jan. 18, 1766.
9. Phebe, baptized Jan. 8, 1747; m. Thomas Kendrick, Jr., of Harwich, Nov. 6, 1766.
10. Betty, baptized 1750; d. of small-pox, Feb. 6, 1766.

ARCHELAUS (5) SMITH (Stephen 4, John 3, Samuel 2, Ralph 1) was baptized in Chatham, Mass., April 23, 1734. He married Elizabeth Nickerson of Chatham. The Chatham Records say—"Archilous Smith and Elizabeth Nickerson both of Chatham was married July ye 16th, 1752, by the Reverend Mr. Stephen Emery as appears by Sartificat from ye sd Mr. Emery to me, Paul Sears, Town Clerk." His wife, Elizabeth, was born in Chatham, Mass., May 15, 1735, the daughter of William (4) Nickerson and his wife, Sarah Covell. Her father was drowned from a canoe off Nauset Beach in April 1763. Her brothers, Stephen and Gideon Nickerson, were Grantees in Barrington, N. S., in the division of land in 1767. Her sister, Mercy, married Heman Kenney, an early Grantee in Barrington.

Archelaus Smith with his wife and four children were of the first English speaking settlers of Barrington, Nova Scotia. He was one of the original Proprietors of the township. They settled there in the fall of 1760 and his home was at Barrington Head, nearly opposite the Old Meeting House. He removed to Cape Sable Island, in 1733 and he and his family occupied almost all the land from North East Point to West Head, a distance of more than five miles. In addition he had a large tract of land at lower Clarks Harbor, then called Stumpy Cove. A great part of the Hawk Point was in his holdings and the great meadow in the center of the Island was mostly his.

Crowell's history of Barrington says, "Archelaus Smith was a leading spirit in the new township. A man of imposing stature and general capability, fisherman, tanner, shoemaker, surveyor, magis-

trate and farmer. He officiated at religious meetings, marriages and burials. He was called a good, quiet, easy, patient man. His wife had a more energetic temper and is described as a tall, masculine woman."

The Vital Records of Barrington say—"Archelous Smith, Esq., Deceased April 3, 1821."

Elizabeth Smith, widow to Archelaus Smith, Esq., Deceased 2d, April, 1828, Aged 93 years.

Mrs. Smith at her death left five children.—56 grandchildren, 297 great grandchildren, 64 of the fifth and one of the sixth generation. She—

"Enjoyed the power before she died,
of saying what's to most denied;
Rise, daughter, to thy daughter run,
Thy daughter's daughter has a son."

Join the Ralph Smith Family Association!

by

JOSEPH A. SMITH
(Second Vice-President)

I am glad to see here today so many descendants of our common ancestor, Ralph Smith, who came to this country in the year 1633 and settled in Hingham.

We hope all present will wish to continue your membership in our Family Organization. If there are any present today who have not yet joined this Association, we hope you will enroll before leaving the hall. We wish to have all join. We wish all the young people to join the Junior organization, which is to have its own set of officers. I think you will find it an advantage to join and maintain your connection with the Smith Family Association.

In the first place your membership will help to maintain the the complete record of the descendants of Ralph Smith. You know that people from all parts of our country are attempting from time to time, to trace their ancestry. This will be an easy task for such people if we keep our records complete. Some time in the future perhaps our own descendants will attempt to trace their ancestry back through you.

Moreover, we are living in a time of change in our social and political life. We cannot wisely chart our future unless we know the past over which we and our ancestors have travelled. Our Smith ancestors helped to found and to maintain on this continent a gov-

ernment of the people, by the people and for the people. It cost a lot of lives and suffering and money to do this. We will wish to continue to govern ourselves and to maintain this sort of a free, democratic government. By maintaining our membership in our family organization we are helping to keep in touch with the aims, principles and the spirit of our ancestors; and by keeping in touch with them we can better take our part in making the future of our country what it ought to be.

You will enjoy the Smith family friendships, and these friendships will mean more and more to us as the years go by. Everyone wants and needs friendships. Where can we find better and more enduring friendships than right here among the descendants of Ralph Smith? Here all of us are bound together by the ties of blood and kinship. This should make a good foundation for life friendships.

Some people are unfortunate enough to have ancestors or family connections of whom they cannot be proud. They would be disgraced by acknowledging their connections with these ancestors or members of their family line. Not so are the Smiths. We, the descendants of Ralph Smith, have an ancestor who was an intelligent, God-fearing, good citizen, of whom we can truly feel proud. We count it an honor to be connected with his family line. Let us honor ourselves by joining the Smith Family Organization, and secure the advantages of these honorable connections!

Keeping in touch with an honorable family like ours will help us to keep ourselves toned up to the moral, religious and good citizenship standards of character which have been found in the Smith family line. We want our children and our grand-children to grow up with these same ideals and principles of good character. Family loyalty is a powerful force in promoting good character and good citizenship. Let us keep our children in touch with this force.

The world today is in need of good will and brotherliness. Family loyalty and family gatherings tend to promote good will and the practice of brotherhood. At the recent meeting of the Murphy family in Worcester, which was attended by several thousand people, two prominent and bitter political rivals buried the hatchet and became friends.

Some great man once said this:—"Don't hang to a family tree, plant one!" Now we Smiths have a good family tree and we want to hang to it. It is a good tree and we are not ashamed of it. We all wish also to plant our own family trees, each one of us in his own home. What better way is there for us to plant a good family tree, than to graft our own tree on to the family tree of Ralph Smith, our honored ancestor?

Every Smith will find it an advantage in many ways to hold membership in our family organization. The older ones need its friendships and companionships. The younger Smiths need to know and to be inspired by the noble Smith family traditions and character. Those who have married into our family ought to join and

learn what a fine family they have linked with. The unmarried will find it a great advantage to maintain their close acquaintance with the members of our family. Perchance they may wish to marry one of us! In this way they can marry without losing the good name of Smith. Where can anyone find a better life partner than among the descendants of Ralph Smith?

SO—whether you are old or young, married or unmarried—you will find it a real advantage to join our Smith Family Association today and stay with us as long as you live. AND THEN—to whatever place you go in the next world—you will surely want to join the Smith Family Association there! !

If, however, we all follow the example and principles of Ralph Smith, we will all go to the **same** place, and live together happily forever after.

Capt. William Smith of Stoughton, Mass.

(Fourth in Descent from Ralph Smith)

by

TENNEY SMITH OF BROOKLYN, N. Y.

(Read at the 1938 Meeting)

Perhaps there is not another person present who traced his descent from Ralph Smith through Capt. William Smith of Stoughton, Mass. In all the years that I have spent in studying my ancestry I have not found a printed account that mentions a connection of Capt. William Smith with Ralph Smith of Hingham and Eastham. Yet I found the connection, after many years, as I will show presently.

My attention was called to my ancestry when I was a very small boy, by hearing my mother tell of her great-grandfather, Samuel Bryant, having been a soldier in the army of Gen. Nathaniel Greene in Virginia, and of his having died there. She had a book, "The Biography of General Nathaniel Greene."

Some time later my father repeated the following rhyme, that he had from his father,

"In Seventeen hundred and seventy-seven
Upon the sixth day of May,
Seth Smith was born in Stoughton,
Massachusetts Bay.

These two facts about my ancestors gave me an interest in my forebears that has continued ever since. Another time one of his

learn what a fine family they have linked with. The unmarried will find it a great advantage to maintain their close acquaintance with the members of our family. Perchance they may wish to marry one of us! In this way they can marry without losing the good name of Smith. Where can anyone find a better life partner than among the descendants of Ralph Smith?

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(Read at the 1938 Meeting)

Perhaps there is not another person present who traced his descent from Ralph Smith through Capt. William Smith of Stoughton, Mass. In all the years that I have spent in studying my ancestry I have not found a printed account that mentions a connection of Capt. William Smith with Ralph Smith of Hingham and Eastham. Yet I found the connection, after many years, as I will show presently.

My attention was called to my ancestry when I was a very small boy, by hearing my mother tell of her great-grandfather, Samuel Bryant, having been a soldier in the army of Gen. Nathaniel Greene in Virginia, and of his having died there. She had a book, "The Biography of General Nathaniel Greene."

Some time later my father repeated the following rhyme, that he had from his father,

"In Seventeen hundred and seventy-seven
Upon the sixth day of May,
Seth Smith was born in Stoughton,
Massachusetts Bay.

These two facts about my ancestors gave me an interest in my forebears that has continued ever since. Another time one of his

grandchildren asked my father to write in her autograph album. He wrote the following: "Charles Smith; son of Seth Smith; son of William Smith; son of John Smith; son of John Smith; son of John Smith." Having now the information that Seth Smith and William Smith had lived in Stoughton, Mass., and that there had been three John Smiths in the family, I had something upon which to work with in hunting out my ancestry. Naturally I began searching the records for a Smith family that had three John Smiths in succession. I soon found the Rev. Ralph Smith of Plymouth. I also found statements that he and the Ralph Smith of Eastham, Mass., were the same person. The consequence was that as the Rev. Ralph Smith of Plymouth died without children, whenever I saw the name, Ralph Smith, I dropped the subject there and went to something else.

I became so interested in the search that I would combine in my vacations the viewing of the scenery and searching old records for my ancestors. I spent all my vacations for years that way, and had a more interesting time than most vacationists have. One day I was in the library in Brockton, Mass. I thought that Brockton was the county seat of Norfolk county, but the librarian corrected me by saying that Dedham was. I went to Dedham and asked the Recorder if they had any old records of Stoughton. He opened the filing case and said "There are the old Stoughton records. You may see if you can find anything of interest to you." I did find something. I found the records of the Probate Court that settled the estate of Capt. William Smith of Stoughton. It was the first thing that I had found directly concerning old records of my ancestors. From there the next step was to the records in Boston, where I found several records of land that William Smith had owned. I also found that he had owned a boat and had evidently been engaged in transporting goods about the Bay. He had gotten his title of Capt. Smith from having had the boat and not from any military service. He had next gone to Milton, Mass., where he had been a carpenter, had married there and had gone to Stoughton.

Puzzling over the matter the thought came to my mind, "Where did Captains come from but from Cape Cod. I am going to Cape Cod and see what I can find out." There I found that there had been a William Smith born in Eastham, Sept. 8, 1702. That made him exactly the age that Capt. William Smith of Stoughton was. I also found that there had been three John Smiths in that family. The third John was not William's father, but his brother, but that was a small matter and easily accounted for in a family story, many years in the retelling. When the whole story was connected together there was no question but that Capt. William Smith of Stoughton was the great grandson of Ralph Smith of Hingham and Eastham.